

**Opening Statement of
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee Markup
July 6, 2009**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I support this 2010 Military Construction, Department of Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies appropriations bill. A lot of time and energy has gone into putting this bill together, and I am confident many Americans will benefit from this effort.

You have already outlined the funding levels in this bill, and I would briefly like to add that I am very pleased that the construction needs of our soldiers are taken care of and the BRAC account is fully funded. I am also glad to see additional funding that addresses our Guard and Reserve needs. I spoke to these issues during our MILCON hearings, and I appreciate your support as this bill was constructed.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is funded at a level that will take care of the many needs of our veterans, particularly in the areas of health care, research and facilities improvement. I would like to thank you for your continued support to fund Gulf War Illness research.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill, and I am confident it addresses the needs of today's heroic service men and women and our commitment to our nation's veterans. Again, I would like to thank you for your cooperation and

support, and in particular I would like to thank your staff for their tremendous efforts and cooperation: Christina Evans, Chad Schulken, and Andy Vanlandingham.

And now Mr. Chairman, at the appropriate time, I would like to move we report this bill to the Full Committee for their consideration.